U.S. Pays Nixon-Mailing Bill

Post 1/30/74

Associated Press

The Justice Department has agreed to pay $10,240 in postage for a mass mailing of a speech by President Nixon, Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.) said yesterday.

Mrs. Schroeder said that by agreeing to the payment, the department "appears to be conceding" that the mailing, made last April, was illegal.

Normally, the Postal Service bills government agencies for their use of the mails on a random sampling basis.

A spokesman for the Justice Department said he had been unable to find anyone who had authorized the payment, but it would be normal procedure to make an additional payment for a mass mailing.

"When a bulk mailing is done by any department or agency, it goes much beyond the ordinary sampling of mail, and the Postal Service requires payment," the spokesman said.

REP. PAT SCHROEDER
. . . accuses White House

The mailing, sent to 64,000 persons, consisted of a speech the President gave last March 10 on crime and drug abuse, along with a cover letter from Richard G. Kleindienst, then attorney general.

The Justice Department spokesman said the department supplied the letters and envelopes at the request of the White House, but did not reproduce the speech or do the actual mailing. He said he didn't know who did.

Mrs. Schroeder said she first wrote to the Justice Department about the mailing six months ago after it was brought to her attention by two recipients.

She said Robert H. Bork, then acting attorney general, wrote to her last month describing the mailing as "a cooperative venture between the department and the White House." Bork said the Republican National Committee paid for reproducing the President's speech.

Bork said it was an appropriate public information function and not a "private mailing."